

Greetings to all:

My name is Michael Swansiger and I've been a Connecticut resident all my life. I served four years in the Marine Corps and was discharged honorably in 1982. In 1990 I bought a house in Trumbull and my wife and I currently reside there. My brother and his wife and two daughters ages 5 and 8 live in Newtown. My nieces Abby and Lilly were attending Sandy Hook Elementary the day of the tragedy. My brother was fortunate to be close by when he received the call to go pick up his children. I texted him that morning and was relieved to know that they were safe. We all were challenged by what had occurred and wanted to know exactly what really happened. We had long talks about it as everyone else probably did. We both enjoy target and skeet shooting and are very familiar with all types of firearms and above all safety.

Having a military background and years of experience with firearms with no mishaps and also being well read on the subject, I consider my opinion to be of value on the topic. I like the idea of background checks for gun owners and I think that the carry permit process does a good job of this. I would not mind pulling out and showing my permit when purchasing gun related items as I do when I purchase a firearm. I don't see a need to call the state when purchasing ammo. The permit should be sufficient. As far as limiting magazine capacity, I feel that puts me at a disadvantage should I have the need to defend others or myself. Many pistols only come with magazines over 10 rounds which would render many of my pistols useless. This restriction seems unfair.

I would also like to address the AR-15 ban. I purchased one not long ago for close to \$1,500. My daughter, brother and I love to take it to the range and target shoot. It's quality time that we get to spend together and we all enjoy it immensely. It's a colt and has sentimental value to me having served in the Marine Corps and also makes a good home defense firearm. Basically it's just like any other semi-auto but with a sportier look to it. To say that it is more dangerous than any other firearm just because of appearance doesn't make sense. The military ones have full auto. Now that's a difference. Oh and by the way, my firearms are locked up in a safe when not in use.

I'd also like to mention taxes and fees. The 50% tax on ammo seems like direct targeting at citizens who have done nothing to be punished in such a way and the other fees to boot. Criminals won't have to pay any extra fees. They don't register their firearms. We have good gun laws right now in the state of Connecticut. Sure some seem a bit obsessive but I can live with them. My big concern is that the view on firearm violence needs to be more sharply focused. What I am saying is that we should concentrate on firearms obtained outside the law. After all, there were several laws broken December 14th. I'm also concerned that Connecticut has many jobs related to the firearm industry. These jobs could be in jeopardy should any of these proposals become law.

I trust in the legal system and am sure that you will make wise choices. Laws have to be functional to work and justified according to the Constitution. Thank you for your time and attention. May God bless your work here and keep you in his care. Have a good day.